Says Dickerson

Hoopsters young but hard working

"We have a young club, in terms of experience, but they are a hard-working group." This is how Appomattox varsity basketball coach Coty Dickerson describes this season's Raider team.

The Raiders, who were scheduled to play Gretna yesterday (Tuesday) after the **Times-Virginian** deadline, have two returning starters from last year's team. Jeff Miller, at center, and Rick Caldwell at guard are returning starters from last year's team.

Kevin Ferguson, who is currently recuperating from a knee injury sustained during football season, is a third Raider who started on last year's basketball squad. However, it is uncertain when, if at all during this season, Ferguson will be able to play basketball.

Norman Turner and Ron Carter were scheduled to start Tuesday evening at the forward positions, according to Coach Dickerson. Kim Humbles, who did not play on last year's team, will start at the other guard position. Jody Williams and Richie Guill are two other guards who will likely see a lot of action this year.

Players who moved up from last year's junior varsity squad this year include Derwin Harvey, a forward; Dennis Fleshman, who plays both guard and forward; Tim Bennett, a guard; and Bobby Carter, a center.

In addition to returnees from last year's team and players up from last year's junior varsity, Dickerson has two newcomers on this year's squad, forward Greg Mayberry, and Mark Kelso, a guard.

"I think we've made some strides," Dickerson says in reference to his team's preseason performance and progress.

"We have a lot of young players, but we're encouraged by what we've seen so far," the coach adds.

Dickerson says the key to his team's success this season will depend on the basics -- good shooting and defense -- and on how well the players block out at the boards.

"We will have to play together as a unit," the coach adds. "We won't have any one or two players scoring most of the points. We'll have to play together as a team."

Dickerson says that he feels this year's team will be quicker than last year's. "We have experienced guards, but inexperienced big men," the coach notes.

The big men on this year's team are Jeff Miller (6-4), Bobby Carter (6-4), Norman Turner (6-3), and Ron Carter (6-1).

Dickerson expects the toughest competition in the Seminole District this season to come from Gretna, Nelson County and Rustburg High Schools.

"But I honestly believe that it's going to be tough to pick a favorite to win the district championship this year," the coach adds. "The whole district is going to be tough, I believe."

"This is a young group, and we have to be patient with them," the coach concludes. "Everyone has his role, and we're expecting everyone to carry out their role on the team. We're encouraged about the season's prospects," the coach says.

Friday night the Raiders will travel to William Campbell for an 8 p.m. game, and Saturday evening the Raiders will face off against Amherst at Amherst at 8 p.m.

Next Tuesday evening the Raiders will play Jefferson Forest at home. Game time is 8 p.m.

All-Region III

Smith, Preston receive honors

Ruby Smith, a junior on this season's Raiderette basketball team, was named this week to the All-Region III girls' basketball team.

In addition, Lolita Preston, a senior on this year's Raiderette team, received honorable mention in the voting for the All-Region III squad.

Both players also received recognition on the All-Seminole District team.

Smith scored 451 points during the season, and broke the 100-point barrier with still a year to play. She received the team's Most Improved Player trophy.

Preston was second highest scorer this season with 213 points. She was also a defensive standout, setting a record for steals, and sharing with Rhonda Jaggers the team leadership in bloc ked shots for the season.

Junel Leftwich of Liberty, Cindy Lewis of Rustburg, and Vickie Zimmerman of Liberty were the other players from the Seminole District who were named to the All-Region III girls' basketball team.

Natalie Conner of William Byrd, Tia Poindexter of Lexington, Rhonda Twitty of Covington, Tammy Smith of Bassett, Yonn Wade of Laurel Park, and Robin Watkins of Martinsville round out the All-Region III team.

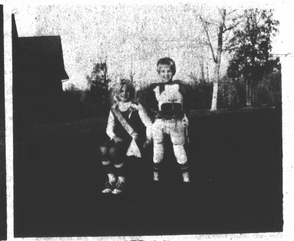
Players besides Preston in the Seminole District who received honorable mention in voting for the All-Region III girls' basketball team were Shirley Stables of Liberty, Jackie Callands, of Gretna, Collen Corish of William Campbell, Freda Davis of Nelson County and Connie Scott of William Campbell.

Times-Virginian

Sports

T-REBS HOMECOMING QUEEN Rhonda Ranson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Ranson, escorted by Van Burke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Allen Burke.

MIDGETS HOMECOMING QUEEN Stacey Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis W. Moore, escorted by Mike Mann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Mann.



MITES HOMECOMING QUEEN Becca Carter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carter, with escort James Archer, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Archer

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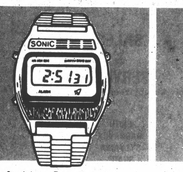

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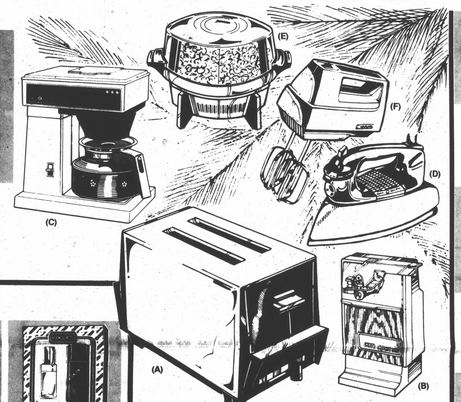

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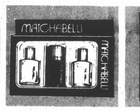

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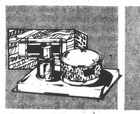

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